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Jordan

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I. Introduction

1. Pursuant to an approach based on respect for and promotion of human rights and the consolidation of its lofty principles and values, the Kingdom adopts policies to protect and promote human rights and fundamental freedoms, adhering to lofty human rights standards. It submits its third report to the Universal Periodic Review of the human rights situation in the Kingdom in fulfilment of its international obligations and commitments, including the most recent developments and progress made in the human rights system.

2. Through analysis and study of the recommendations of the second review, the Jordanian Government has taken practical measures that reflect the extent of the response to the Universal Periodic Review in the form of preparation of a matrix of the tasks and priorities for each concerned authority to implement the recommendations within its competence. This matrix also included measurement tools, performance indicators and the challenges to implementation to be overcome in order to fulfil commitments when the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan submitted its second report, adopted in March 2014.

II. Methodology and consultation process

3. The third national report was prepared in accordance with the established guidelines, the guidance note and national consultation methodology. A series of consultation meetings was held with the concerned parties — official and national institutions, civil society organizations and NGOs — to collect information on the recommendations accepted by the Kingdom in the second review period. A drafting committee was formed to prepare the report in accordance with the guidance note.

4. The meetings were organized by the Office of the Government Coordinator for Human Rights in the Office of the Prime Minister with the participation of stakeholders,[1] such as civil society alliances, the National Centre for Human Rights, the National Assembly, national institutions and international agencies, including the Danish Institute and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), in the presence of trade unionists and academic specialists, and took place between 2014 and 2018 with a view to coordination between the Government and those bodies. In this context, 11 discussion meetings were held (annex 1) in the presence of all the parties to discuss the progress made in implementing the recommendations and to hear the opinions, proposals and recommendations of stakeholders about the national report for the review of the human rights situation in the Kingdom.

5. The Drafting Committee prepared the initial draft of the report, which was presented to several alliances and stakeholders and to the National Centre for Human Rights. The committee received responses that were taken into account during the drafting of the report.

III. Most significant developments in the human rights situation since the second review

Normative and institutional developments relating to the promotion and protection of human rights

1. Normative developments

6. Much legislation aimed at the promotion and protection of human rights has been adopted and amended (annex 2).

2. National policies, strategies and plans

7. The Kingdom has adopted many national policies, strategies and plans that are compatible with human rights principles and national, regional and international standards for the promotion of various civil, political, economic, social, cultural and environmental

rights, including: the Comprehensive National Human Rights Plan 2016–2025 (annex 3), the National Plan for the Implementation of Security Council Resolution 1325 (annex 4), the National Plan for Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals 2030 (annex 5), the National Plan to Counter Extremism 2014 (annex 6), the Jordanian Response Plan to the Syrian Crisis 2017 (annex 7), the Strategic Plan for Education 2018–2022 (annex 8), the National Strategy for Persons with Disabilities Second Phase 2010–2015 (annex 9), the Implementation Plan to Strengthen the Institutional Response to Domestic Violence Cases 2016–2018 (annex 10), the draft national strategy for Jordanian women 2020–2030 (under consideration), the Jordanian National Strategy for the Elderly 2018–2022 (annex 11), the National Agricultural Development Strategy 2016–2025 (annex 12), the draft national strategy for the prevention of human trafficking 2018–2021 (under consideration), the Criminal Justice Strategy 2017–2019 (annex 13), and the National Strategy for Juvenile Justice 2017–2019 (annex 14).

3. Institutional framework

8. The Jordanian Government has worked to support and strengthen the institutional framework for the respect of human rights and fundamental freedoms. In addition to the existing institutions, such as national institutions, departments and units in a number of ministries, several institutions and bodies have been established to promote and protect human rights, including:

- **Government Transparency Unit, Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation**.[2] The Unit aims to assist governmental, non-governmental and national bodies in joint follow-up of Jordan's commitments within the framework of the Open Government Partnership to redefine the relationship between citizen and State by enhancing the concepts of government transparency, accountability, participation of the people and free access to information and by harnessing new technology to promote good governance.
- **Complaints and Human Rights Office, Directorate General of the Gendarmerie**:[3] It aims to provide training on human rights standards, awareness of and education on basic rights and to follow up complaints.
- **Specialized Human Rights Training Centre, Public Security Directorate**:[4] It aims to strengthen and build the capacity of personnel dealing with human rights issues, to raise awareness and qualify officers and human rights workers through training programmes, workshops and cooperation with friendly countries to encourage respect for human rights.
- **Integrity and Anti-Corruption Commission**:[5] The Commission aims to improve the political and administrative system by seeing that it does not stray from the principles of national integrity, which endeavour to serve citizens and preserve their dignity, rights and property by ensuring that legislation is applied and that it works transparently to apply the principles of justice, equality and equal opportunities, combatting corruption in all its forms and protecting citizens' rights, the aim of which is to guarantee adherence to the principles of national integrity and fighting corruption by putting into effect the system of values and rules of conduct in public administration.
- **Cybercrime Unit, Public Security Directorate**:[6] It spreads awareness and guidance to all sections of society to avoid becoming victims of cybercrime, in addition to holding training courses for all public security employees and civil society institutions. It also seeks to create a secure electronic environment for all governmental and civil society institutions.
- **Government Coordinator for Human Rights, Office of the Prime Minister**:[7] The Office of the Coordinator seeks to strengthen the concept of the human rights system through the dissemination of a human rights culture, following up the implementation of recommendations approved by the Kingdom during the discussion of national reports to meet international obligations in the Human Rights Council. In addition, a higher committee has been set up to prepare and draw up the comprehensive national human rights plan and to involve trade unions, parties, national institutions and civil society institutions. Preparation of the plan focused on

the outcomes of these meetings and consultations, in addition to the stipulations of Islamic law and divine messages about human rights and preserving human dignity, and on coordination to hold many consultative and other meetings with the participation of a number of international and civil society institutions to discuss the recommendations of the Universal Periodic Review report on human rights, to which Jordan is committed. The Human Rights Coordinating Methodology was also prepared. It is based on highlighting the positive aspects of the Jordanian State and what has been achieved in all areas, whether in terms of legislation, policies or practices.

- **Human Trafficking Unit, Public Security Directorate**:[8] Its functions include receiving and verifying complaints and identifying victims, in addition to providing victims with protection, accommodation and psychological care services, securing tickets for voluntary departure, and awareness campaigns for employers and expatriate workers. In 2017, 309 complaints were submitted to the Directorate; there were 23 legally designated cases of trafficking in human beings; and some 175 victims were accommodated by Dar Al Karama and the Jordanian Women's Union.

- **Human Trafficking Unit, Ministry of Labour**:[9] It aims to investigate violations against workers. In 2016, 336 complaints were submitted to the department and transferred to the public prosecutor in cooperation with the investigation department of the Human Trafficking Unit, and 27 cases of human trafficking in human beings were detected. Inspection visits to recruitment agencies for domestic workers and factory workers in certified industrial zones and to companies have been intensified and suspicions of trafficking in human beings have been investigated. In 2017, there were 106 inspection visits. Moreover, a house was opened to accommodate victims of human trafficking by Dar Al Karama and the Jordanian Women's Union. In 2017, 175 victims of trafficking were accommodated, while in 236 different cases that did not reach the level of human trafficking, legal action was taken against employers under the provisions of the Employment Act.

IV. Development of the judiciary

9. According to the discussion papers of His Majesty the King, especially the sixth discussion paper (annex 15) entitled "The rule of law is the basis of a civil state", which is based on the fact that the advanced State protects the rights of its citizens, that is the true basis on which democracies, prosperous economies and productive societies are built and the guarantor of individual and public rights and an effective framework of public administration, while the principle of the rule of law means that all individuals, institutions and authorities are subject to the law. It is the duty of every institution to protect and promote the rule of law, which provides the foundation of prudent administration that applies justice, equality and equal opportunities. The operation of this system is the basis for tackling the extremism invading the region, mainly targeting young people, as a result of global, regional and local conditions.

10. A Royal Commission was formed to develop the judicial authorities and strengthen the rule of law, and conducted a comprehensive review and evaluation of the judicial authorities. It drew up a set of recommendation for improving the judiciary and the business environment, including recommendations to promote modernization of the administration of justice, ensure effective justice for citizens, enhance the independence of the judiciary and judges and to establish an economic chamber for commercial cases of economic importance, in addition to amending a body of legislation to ensure harmonization of human rights standards in national legislation.

V. Full implementation of recommendations

Rights of women (recommendations 48 and 55)

11. Article 308[10] of the Criminal Code, exempting a rapist from punishment if he marries his victim, was repealed under amended Act No. 27 of 2017. Emphasizing that marriage is prohibited without full and free consent with no defects in order to ensure that

there is no forced marriage, the Act requires the court to confirm the freedom of the parties to conclude the contract and affirms that the legal age of marriage is 18, although instructions have been issued to permit the marriage of a person who has reached the age of 15 years, but is under 18 years (No. 1 of 2017) (annex 16). This is a general rule to confirm the absence of forced marriage or violation of the provisions of the law. Training courses have been held for the sharia judges so that it is ascertained that marriage is by consent, choice and complete freedom and that the will of the parties to the contract is free of any defects of will or suspicions. Training sessions have been held for prospective couples, special awareness campaigns conducted and counselling offered. In order to limit the conditions under which those under 18 can marry, the Jordanian National Commission for Women and its partners have worked with civil society coalitions and through the annual international campaign against gender-based violence, Too Young to Marry, to raise the awareness of the local community, school students and associations to the importance of ending child marriage and its social, economic, health and psychological consequences.

Recommendations 12, 13, 14, 23, 30, 32, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93 and 98

12. The Strategic Plan for Education 2018–2022, covering all sections, categories and regions of the Kingdom, has been prepared to develop and improve education and the availability of non-formal education and literacy. The National Strategy for Women 2013–2017 is being updated for the period 2020–2030 in collaboration with UN Women and with the support of ESCWA to include the fifth Sustainable Development Goal (on gender equality and the empowerment of women), while a bill is in preparation on the budgets of government units for the financial year 2018 for gender mainstreaming. The Jordanian Fair Pay Committee has prepared a draft study to determine the types of discrimination faced by private school teachers, and a special contract for private schools has been published with greater benefits for private school teachers. The Government is also working to support and establish private sector nurseries in accordance with Article 72 of the Jordanian Employment Act No. 26 of 2010 (annex 17). The National Council for Family Affairs implemented the project Support and Establish Nurseries in the Public and Private Sectors 2017–2020, which is aimed at working women and children and promoting their rights by providing a stimulating working environment for women and a safe educational environment for children from birth to four years. Two hundred and thirty-five women have been trained, their capacities and skills have been developed regarding early childhood and dealing with children in nurseries and they have been made aware of their employment rights, while 70 new job opportunities have been created in 11 nurseries established for the children of working women. The services provided in nursery homes for approximately 300 children in institutional nurseries have been improved. In 2018, the project aims to establish 40 institutional nurseries in the public and private sectors, providing 250 new job opportunities for women, and to train and qualify 400 women on early childhood and nursery work. Moreover, the new Nurseries Statute was issued for 2018, its provisions including organizing and facilitating the establishment of nurseries in all official, voluntary and private agencies in order to create an appropriate work environment for women and to encourage them to enter the labour market. The provisions of this Statute also include the introduction of the Statute on domestic nurseries, a sector in which only women work, thus opening new employment opportunities for women only. The Statute also requires all nurseries to receive children with disabilities. The provisions of the Statute focus on the safety and security of children in nurseries, the provision of early childhood services and the right to education for some 1500 children from birth to 4 years. The Prime Minister has issued a memorandum requiring the gender of candidates for vacant posts to be unspecified and that appointments be according to eligibility, regardless of gender, whether male or female.

13. The Elections Act No. 6 of 2016 reserves 15 seats for women (the "quota") (annex 18). Women occupied 15.4 per cent of seats in the 18th Parliament, compared with 10.6 per cent in the previous Assembly in 2012. Under the provisions of article 3(c) of the Support of Political Parties Act No. 53 of 2016, the percentage of women participating in a party must be at least 10 per cent (annex 19). Women account for 35 per cent of participation in political parties. The Municipal and Decentralization Elections were held under the

Decentralization Act No. 45 of 2015 (annex 20), which set a minimum quota of 10 per cent of seats for women, and the Municipalities Act No. 49 of 2015 (annex 21), which set a quota of 25 per cent. Women won 32 per cent of local council seats and 13 per cent of total governorate council seats, while 32 women won through the seats reserved for women. Fifty-one women head their local councils.

14. In 2018, 52 women were in the diplomatic corps (18 per cent), as opposed to 45 in 2013 (17.2 per cent). In the judiciary, there are 215 women judges (20 per cent), one female member of the Judicial Council, while two female judges are members of the Court of Cassation. The executive programme of the Government for 2016-2019 (annex 22) includes encouraging the entry of women into the labour market, raising their participation in it from 15 to 24 per cent by 2025 and reducing the gender gap in the relevant sectors.

15. The Women's Empowerment in the Public Sector project for 2015 aimed to increase opportunities for women to occupy leadership positions, build their capacities and skills and increase their participation in policymaking and decision-making. In 2015 and 2016, 360 middle-level female employees were trained. The Flexible Work Statute No. 22 of 2017 (annex 23) was introduced into the Civil Service Statute, and the National Plan for Implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 on women and security and peace was launched. The Cabinet formed a Ministerial Committee for the Empowerment of Women with a membership of relevant ministers to support the economic, social and political participation of women in public life. The Government adopted the 2030 Sustainable Development Plan, emphasizing the its commitment to gender mainstreaming in its work. A sectoral committee for equality and gender mainstreaming was set up under the chairmanship of the secretary-general of the National Committee for Women's Affairs and the Freedoms Committee, headed by the Commissioner-General of the National Centre for Human Rights, with the aim of establishing a framework for implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. The Act amending the Military Retirement Act No. 12 of 2015, which gives working women the same benefits as men when retiring from employment, has been enacted. The Social Security Act No. 1 of 2014 concerning the just treatment of working women provides for the inheritance of the deceased woman's full salary by her eligible children, as is the case with men. The 2015 Leadership Appointment Statute was adopted to ensure fairness, transparency, justice and equality in recruitment to leadership positions, thereby promoting the presence of women in such positions.

16. Financial allocations to the Jordanian National Committee for Women's Affairs have increased to 700,000 dinars (JD) (equivalent to $1 million per year), and those to the National Centre for Human Rights to JD 750,000 annually to empower these institutions. The National Centre for Human Rights has some 45 employees. The staff of the Centre and liaison officers deployed in the Kingdom receive complaints through the available means.

Recommendations 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 49, 50, 51, 52, and 53

17. The Protection from Domestic Violence Act No. 15 of 2017 (annex 24) includes reform provisions aimed at protecting the family and the reporting of any case of domestic violence. The Family Protection Department settles disputes in domestic violence cases with the procedures prescribed by the Act, ending with ratification by a court within seven days, provided that both parties agree and refrain from committing the offence. It should be noted that the Act includes the services that must be provided to the parties. The Act requires the courts to consider cases of domestic violence as a matter of urgency and in secret. Video links have been provided for the protection of juveniles and in cases of domestic violence. The penalties for rape, ill-treatment, abduction, and indecent assault have been increased under the amendments to the Criminal Code of 2017. The Shelters for Women at Risk Statute No. 171 of 2016 was issued with the aim of providing protection and temporary shelter to victims and the social care, livelihood, psychological, health, guidance, cultural and legal services they need. In addition, awareness campaigns were launched, Know, Don't Find Out and 16 Days to Fight Violence against Women and Children, the activities of which included social networking. Also worth mentioning is the role of the Family Reconciliation Centre in providing family protection and psychological counselling services, and the launch of the updated version of the national framework for

the protection of the family from violence and the national plan to respond to domestic violence. In 2014, the Kingdom joined the initiative UNiTE to End Violence Against Women.

18. In 2017, training programmes were held at the Regional Training Centre of the Department of Family Protection, Directorate of Public Security, including 21 courses in which 366 officers participated, in addition to the Juvenile Police Department, and 19 courses for staff and judges on violence against women. Training courses were held to develop police and judicial capacities in the use of modern technologies for hearing the testimony of children, including training in applying the text of the law to take into account the psychological state of the victim. The three regions of the Kingdom were covered by the Family Council in cooperation with the High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

19. The perpetrators of honour crimes have been excluded from taking advantage of the mitigating excuse contained in Article 98 of the Criminal Code No. 27 of 2017 (annex 25) to achieve greater deterrence.

20. Complaints services have been put into effect for the reporting of cases of abuse of students by teachers and school staff through a hotline, written complaints and complaints transmitted from the government website. They are followed up and the necessary action is taken. (annex 26).

Recommendation 34

21. The Maintenance Fund Statute No. 48 of 2015 was issued and began operations by receiving applications and lending to beneficiaries under the provisions of the Statute. It will be extended to all regions of the Kingdom. In 2017, one million dinars from the general State budget were set aside for the purposes of implementing the provisions of this Statute; 100 per cent of applications submitted met the requirements and payment was made. By May 2018, 251 applications had been submitted; 178 were accepted and 73 were rejected because the required documents were incomplete. The Fund provides its services regardless of the nationality or religion of the applicant.

Recommendation 54

22. The Prevention of Trafficking in Persons Act No. 9 of 2009[11] pays particular attention to women and children, in line with the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime. More protection is afforded to the most vulnerable victims, especially women and persons with disabilities, through the provision of medical, psychological and housing services for victims, legal counselling and work to reintegrate them into society according to the standards of aftercare. Work has also been done to extend the Economic Empowerment of Victims Statute to Dar Karama under the Ministry of Social Development.

Recommendations 22 and 25

23. Articles 6, 101 and 102 of the Jordanian Constitution provide that all Jordanians shall be equal before the law and guarantee the right to take legal action before the courts regardless of gender, race or religion (annex 27). All procedural, criminal and civil laws are a guarantee of justice and equality in all police and judicial investigations. The Executive Programme of the Government for 2016–2019 was designed to harmonize national plan indicators with the Jordanian Women's Strategy and the Sustainable Development Goals 2030, while its indicators on women are in the Government Implementation Plan for the Economic and Social Vision 2025. The Sharia Courts Act of 2016 was promulgated to ensure the standards of a fair trial, particularly the right to take legal action and access to justice. The amended Code of Procedure of the Sharia Courts Act No. 11 of 2016, which promotes the principle of justice, was also promulgated. The National Council for Family Affairs launched the National Strategy for the Elderly in 2017 and its Executive Plan for 2018–2022 in cooperation with the National Committee for the Elderly. It aims to improve the services provided to the elderly and to make the issues of the elderly a national priority. It includes four priority areas: health, and economic, environmental and social matters.

Rights of the child

Recommendations 8, 24, 58 and 59

24. The provisions of the Juveniles Act No. 32 of 2014 make provision for juvenile courts and prosecutors and special police to deal with juveniles (annex 28). The executive regulations and instructions of the Juveniles Act (annex 29) were issued to provide the basis for application of non-custodial sentences (annex 30) and the separation of juveniles from adults. The age of criminal responsibility was raised to 12 years and detention was made a last resort since the provisions of the Act are aimed at reform and rehabilitation and not punishment. Services are provided to juveniles according to their needs through qualified specialist psychologists and social workers as an essential element of the conduct of cases and the validity of procedures. It is stipulated that the offence should not be considered a criminal offence to the disadvantage of the juvenile.

25. The legal accountability of Juveniles Act enforcement personnel has been set out in article 4 as a result of violations by those executing the Juveniles Act. Places have been designated for juveniles according to needs, namely the Juvenile Rehabilitation Centre, the Juvenile Welfare House and the Juvenile Education Centre. The aforementioned Act provides guarantees such as that juveniles shall not be shackled, and force may be used only when and to the extent necessary to prevent danger to them or to prevent them harming themselves, and that juveniles shall be provided with medical care. Article 5 of the same Act stipulates that the necessary measures shall be taken to separate juveniles according to the offences committed or the degree of risk, and to separate detainees from convicted persons.

Recommendations 39, 40 and 95

26. Working children fall into the category of juveniles needing protection and care under the Juveniles Act. A draft of the statute to protect children from unlawful work is in preparation in cooperation with the International Labour Organization (ILO) and UNICEF (annex 31). Sixty-eight training courses attended by 220 labour inspectors have been conducted on development, international refugee law and combating human trafficking in order to eliminate violence against children. The Child Labour Department, the Complaints Department, the Hotline, the Home Inspectors Section and the Human Trafficking Department have been established. Rules and regulations governing the domestic migrant labour sector have been promulgated, giving domestic workers more advantages than those provided for in the Employment Code (annex 32). A specialized committee has been set up to study occupational safety and health regulations to ensure that workers have a working environment free from the risks of occupational injuries. In addition, the Flexible Work Statute No. 22 of 2017 sets out the categories subject to it.

Rights of persons with disabilities

Recommendation 7

27. Article 27 of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act No. 20 of 2017 (annex 33) regulates the work of centres and institutions for persons with disabilities, stipulating that it is not be permitted to place such persons in day-care or shelter homes without obtaining free and informed consent, nor is it permissible to grant a licence to establish new private housing facilities for persons with disabilities after the provisions of the Act have come into force. Article 28 of the Act requires governmental and non-governmental bodies that provide shelter, day-care and rehabilitation services for persons with disabilities to apply quality of services standards and employment rules standards, and lays down conditions and standards for those working in this field issued by the authorities responsible.

Recommendations 19 and 36

28. The Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act includes children and women with disabilities in the general principles stipulated in article 4. Article 5 of the Act states that persons with disabilities may not be deprived of their rights or freedoms nor may their enjoyment or exercise of them be restricted or their freedom to make decisions be restricted

on the basis or because of disability. The Act amending the Criminal Code No. 27 of 2017 contains new provisions that make disability an aggravating circumstance in offences involving physical and psychological abuse, sexual assault, fraud and neglect in care or abandonment.

Recommendation 110

29. Forced sterilization is a punishable offence under the provisions of Article 330 of the amended Criminal Code No. 27 of 2017 (annex 34). The General Fatwa Department has issued decision No. 194 (2/2014) prohibiting removal of the uterus of girls with disabilities and on the responsibility of society towards them. There is civil as well as criminal liability of persons responsible and the doctors performing this criminal act. Such girls have the right to financial compensation and, if the representative of a person with a mental disability or impairment does not come forward, the Public Prosecutor's Office claims their financial rights on their behalf.

Recommendation 111

30. The second phase of the National Strategy for Persons with Disabilities has been evaluated (2010–2015). The direct quantitative and qualitative results of evaluation of the performance and achievement of its main lines showed that media, education and awareness achieved the most, with a rate of 79 per cent, while accessibility was the lowest, at 11 per cent. In order to guarantee the rights of persons with disabilities, the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act No. 20 of 2017 lays down the principle that these rights be included in the policies, strategies, programmes and plans of all the parties responsible for implementing the provisions of this Act.

Recommendations 112, 113 and 115

31. The Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act No. 20 of 2017 aims to raise the living standards and conditions of persons with disabilities through recurrent cash assistance and other forms of monetary support provided by the National Aid Fund, and by financing operational projects for persons with disabilities and their families through allocation of a proportion of soft loans within the provisions of article 26 thereof. It also requires governmental and non-governmental entities to allocate 4 per cent of vacancies to persons with disabilities under the provisions of article 25. The Government has also taken action on the employment of persons with disabilities by establishing a special section of the Ministry of Labour responsible for the employment of persons with disabilities through procedures and practices such as to increase their involvement in the labour market. In 2017, 283 persons were employed. In addition, strategies and plans to combat poverty include measures to ensure the inclusion of persons with disabilities in activities and programmes under the provisions of Article 29 of the same Act. In order to support their right to integration and self-reliance, the same Act provides for the development of a comprehensive national plan that includes solutions and transitional and permanent alternatives to governmental and private shelters and transforming non-governmental housing facilities for persons with disabilities into integrated day service bodies. Implementation of the plan should take place within one year of the date of entry into force of the Act and not exceed 10 years.

32. The Early Intervention Centres for Children with Disabilities Statute, 2017 (annex 35) was issued with the aim of early intervention to integrate children with disabilities into society and to assess and meet their needs through specialized programmes.

Recommendations 114 and 116

33. With regard to improving access by persons with disabilities to public and civil facilities, the construction requirements for persons with disabilities have been updated to meet international standards. Article 32, paragraph 1 (b), of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act No. 20 of 2017 provides for the development of a national plan to adapt buildings, facilities, places of worship and tourist sites that provide services to the public within a timeframe not exceeding 10 years and the involvement of persons with disabilities and their organizations in the drafting of this plan. Furthermore, an emergency line (114)

has been set up for the deaf enabling them in case of emergency to make video calls to the command and control centre of Public Security. Regarding improved access to schools and to achieve what is provided in the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act on developing a comprehensive national plan for the integration of persons with disabilities in educational institutions, an advisory committee including representatives of the Ministry of Education and experts has been set up to prepare the plan.

Labour rights and migrant workers

Recommendations 121 and 126

34. The Employment Act requires employers to provide a safe working environment to protect workers from the hazards and diseases that may result from work and to comply with the occupational health and safety conditions under the Act and the regulations, instructions and decisions issued thereunder. In 2017, the inspection department of the Ministry of Labour intensified inspection visits to various places of work and establishments to ensure application of the Act: number of institutions visited: 79,589; number of workers' complaints received: 2,297; number of workers complaints resolved: 798; number of violations: 4,415; number of warnings: 6,157 (annex 36).

35. Labour inspectors attended several training courses and workshops. There were 64 such courses in 2017, when 220 labour inspectors attended two or three training courses during the year. The Occupational Health and Safety Directorate was set up to increase the supervision of buildings in terms of providing a risk-free working environment (annex 37).

Recommendations 96, 99, 120, 122, 123

36. Article 77 (b) of the Employment Code provides for the protection of domestic workers from forced labour. Complaints are investigated immediately they have been lodged by the worker herself or the embassy representative to the Ministry headquarters or to the Domestic Workers Directorate. The worker has the right to lodge a complaint against the employer under article 77 (b) (annex 38).

37. The Committee on Non-Jordanian Domestic Workers' Affairs was established under the Domestic Workers Statute No. 90 of 2009 to examine complaints lodged by workers, employers or agencies. Most of the problems have concerned the fining of workers and accordingly a decision was issued allowing domestic workers to rectify their situation by exempting them from fines for exceeding residence due to non-renewal of the work permit in order to facilitate their return to their countries.

Prevention of torture

Recommendation 37

38. There is much attention to the detention environment and its adaptation to international and national human rights standards. Temporary detention facilities have been rehabilitated, the quality of services provided to detainees improved, as have initial procedures for dealing with detainees by informing them of all their rights and of the procedures that will be carried out during their detention, and those procedures are documented. The Code of Practice Governing and Regulating the Detention of Persons was issued in 2014. Investigation and prosecution procedures are carried out in accordance with the rules and regulations of the regular courts, which are fully consistent with international standards, particularly those relating to fair trial guarantees. When any offence is committed, including torture, it is investigated and regulated according to the proper legal conditions and referred to the competent court, subject to the same legal supervision instruments as other offences. In 2015, the Public Security Act was amended and the Police Justice Directorate and the Police Appeals Court were established to hear appeals against decisions of the Police Court, in full conformity with international standards on a fair trial and human rights. One member of the Court must be a regular judge appointed by the President of the Judicial Council. The Ministry of Justice has prepared a guide for public prosecutors on the investigation of torture offences which has been distributed to all police prosecutors. The Comprehensive National Human Rights Plan 2016–2025 examines the

possibility of referring perpetrators of torture offences to the regular courts. Four cases of torture are currently before the police courts. (Annex 39: Number of cases of ill-treatment).

Statistics on cases of ill-treatment 2015–2017

	Cases of ill-treatment			
Year	*Convicted*	*Not convicted*	*Pending*	*Case to police court*
2015	58	162	9	23
2016	21	167	14	6
2017	46	114	87	15

Harmonization of legislation

Recommendations 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 31

39. Articles 100, 54, 20 and 208 of the Criminal Code No. 27 of 2017 on the crime of torture (annex 40) have been amended so that the minimum becomes one year and the maximum three years.[12] The civil and political rights section of the Comprehensive National Human Rights Plan 2016–2025 highlighted the amendment of legislation to ensure that the concept of torture was extended to comply with the Convention against Torture and that the penalties imposed on perpetrators were increased. This is in line with international standards, and commitments to implement the recommendation.

40. The Handbook on Consolidated National Action for the Prevention of Gender-Based Violence, Domestic Violence and Violence Against Children has been prepared (annex 41).

41. Article 62, paragraph 2(c), of the Criminal Code has been amended in relation to surgical operations and medical treatment for children to require the consent of one of the parents. Article 308 of the Criminal Code that provided an exemption for persons convicted of rape has been repealed. The Protection from Domestic Violence Act and the Juveniles Act have been submitted and adopted.

42. The Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act No. 20 of 2017 is based on equality, non-discrimination and equality of opportunity and is compatible with conventions on human rights and the protection of persons with disabilities from discrimination in all areas, especially women and children. The Act defines violence as "any act or omission that deprives a person with disabilities of a right or freedom or of the right to exercise them or any prejudice to his or her physical integrity or infliction of mental or psychological harm on the basis of disability".

Recommendations 94 and 10

43. A Royal Commission to develop the judiciary and strengthen the rule of law was set up in 2016. Its membership included civil society institutions, foremost among them the Bar Association. One of the outputs of the Commission's work was a set of recommendations for legislative amendments to laws and regulations. The following have been adopted: the Independence of the Judiciary Act, the Formation of the Regular Courts Act, the Code of Criminal Procedure, the Mediation for Settlement of Civil Disputes Act, the Criminal Code, the Major Felonies Court Act, the Code of Civil Procedure, the Magistrates' Courts Act, the Evidence Act, the Execution Act, the Administration of Justice of the State Act, the Bar Association Act, the Expertise before the Regular Courts Statute, the Inspection of the Regular Courts Statute, the Jordanian Judicial Institute Statute and the Notary Licensing Statute. It should be noted that the Comprehensive National Human Rights Plan 2016–2025 expressly provides for the involvement of civil society institutions in the committees formed to review laws. The Legislative and Opinion Bureau also publishes a draft of any legislation on its website and receives any observations to be presented to the Law Committee of the Legislative Council for consideration and to take into account proposed amendments.

Recommendations 11 and 16

44. The Prime Minister issued a general memorandum to follow up the implementation of the recommendations contained in the annual report of the National Centre for Human Rights. The Cabinet also formed a committee to follow up the recommendations of the National Centre for Human Rights and to prepare a report on them to promote respect for and protection of human rights.

45. The National Council for Family Affairs was the national institution that prepared the draft national strategy for juvenile justice (2017–2019) in partnership with the official authorities, civil society organizations and UNICEF. This culminated in adoption of the strategy for implementation in the Kingdom, and its dissemination. The National Council was also involved in drafting the bill on the rights of the child, which will be submitted before the end of this year. Moreover, through the establishment of the National Council as a national institution, the State took the approach of holding three extended workshops in the first quarter of 2017 to discuss the bill on protection from domestic violence. The workshops brought together all the relevant institutions within the State and the members of both chambers of the National Assembly, which ultimately adopted Act No. 15 of 2017. Meetings were also held with Members of Parliament to discuss demands relating to the request to amend the Temporary Personal Status Act in the first half of this year, which demonstrates the participation by and coordination between State institutions.

Recommendations 42, 60 and 61

46. The Crime Prevention Act No. 7 of 1954 is a preventive and constitutional law aimed, not at restricting personal freedoms, but rather at preventing, before they occur, crimes that violate the security of society and public order, especially murder, crimes committed in the name of honour and theft. The Administrative Governor intervenes to protect life and property when he is convinced that administrative detention should be used to ensure the safety of citizens and to prevent crime. Administrative detention under this Act is subject to specific restrictions. Application of the Act is limited to specific cases of persons who are very dangerous, outlaws and persons accused of assault and intimidation of citizens. Administrative detention is for temporary periods until a guarantee is provided to ensure the good behaviour of such persons, that they present no further risk to citizens and will not return to criminality. Under Article 8 of the Juveniles Act, a juvenile may be arrested only by decision of the competent judicial authority. The Amana Women's Shelter and Rehabilitation Centre has opened for female administrative detainees and women at risk under the provisions of the Shelters for Women at Risk Statute No. 171 of 2016 and the regulations issued pursuant thereto.

47. Administrative detention is a precautionary measure used to achieve public and private deterrence objectives and is applied in legally defined cases. When this Act is applied, lawyers may attend the questioning of suspects by the administrative authorities. The acts attributed to suspects must be ascertained before the issuance of the memorandum of proceedings against them. If these acts fall within the jurisdiction of the courts of law, the person complained of shall be assigned for review in writing without the need to investigate them. If the acts fall under the jurisdiction of the Administrative Governor, he shall conduct the legal procedures according to the above.

48. There are specific legal standards and controls for the arrest of persons suspected of committing offences. The rules of the Code of Criminal Procedure are applied when any person is brought before the Administrative Governor, it is also applied to all other offences in the Kingdom. Article 5/4 of the Crime Prevention Act provides that proceedings under this Act with regard to taking testimony under oath, questioning witnesses, the presence of lawyers, the filing of orders, memoranda of proceedings and other documents, objection to and execution judgements, and the procedure itself shall follow the procedure of the first instance courts. The decisions of the Administrative Governor are subject to appeal before the Administrative Court, which now has two levels under the Administrative Judiciary Act No. 27 of 2014. The injured party has the right to challenge the Administrative Governor in both criminal and civil proceedings if the decision is contrary to the provisions of the law (arbitrary).

Recommendations 62 and 63

49. The Ministry of Justice has adopted legislation on alternative penalties to deal with the issue of judicial detention and its length before and during the trial and to implement the recommendations of the report of the Royal Commission to develop the judiciary and strengthen the rule of law by amending the Criminal Code and legal provisions that allow the application of alternative and societal penalties and the use of alternatives to pre-trial detention, especially in minor offences in the Criminal Code. Electronic supervision (tagging) has been approved, a distinct addition to the development of criminal justice in the fight against crime. The Code has been amended by adding Article 25bis, entitled "Community Reform Alternatives", which provides: Community service (obliging the convicted person to perform unpaid work to serve the community for a period determined by the court of not less than 40 hours and not more than 200 hours, the work to be carried out within a period not exceeding one year), community monitoring (requiring the convict to be subject to community supervision for a period of not less than six months and not more than three years), and community supervision conditional on one or more rehabilitation programmes (to compel the convicted person to undergo a rehabilitation programme determined by the court in order to assess his conduct in order to improve it). The Ministry of Justice has prepared instructions on community penalties and amended the organizational structure of the Ministry by establishing a Community Penalties Directorate. Electronic supervision (tagging) has been adopted, a distinct addition in the field of developing criminal justice in the fight against crime. Under article 158 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, the prosecutor or the court may use modern techniques in investigative and trial proceedings without prejudice to the right to a hearing, including the remote trial of an inmate from the Reform and Rehabilitation Centre as set forth in the statute issued for this purpose. Modern technology instruments, including tapes and CDs, are subject to prescribed protection measures to maintain their confidentiality and the privacy of the witness or the inmate. On 30 July 2018 the Cabinet decided to approve the Statute on the Use of Modern Technology In Criminal Proceedings and the Statute on the Use of Electronic Means in Civil Judicial Proceedings in order to provide fair trial guarantees for those tried using modern technical means in terms of the right of the defence and the provisions on publicity and attendance. The amended Criminal Code (2017) has removed hard labour as a penalty and replaced it with the penalty of work only. Furthermore, the penalty imposed on police officers for failing in the tasks entrusted to them has been increased. Article 22 of the Code of Criminal Procedure requires the public prosecutor to regulate the matter and submit it to the public prosecution office, which refers it to the competent public prosecutor or the competent court.

50. In another development, provision has been made to set up a fund in the Ministry of Justice and under its supervision called the Legal Aid Before the Courts Fund under Article 208 of the Code of Criminal Procedure. Legal aid fees payable under the Code and the regulations and instructions issued are paid from the Fund. The competent official authorities, any of the institutions concerned or to any citizen or resident of the Kingdom who is unable to appoint a lawyer may submit a request to the Minister of Justice for legal aid under the provisions of the legislation in force and in coordination with the Bar Association. Between 1 January 2016 and 1 April 2018, 340 persons benefited from legal aid from the Legal Aid Fund. It should be noted that nominated liaison officers (original and alternate) who have a law degree and work in the courts are required to communicate with the Legal Aid Directorate to facilitate procedures for providing legal aid to applicants.

Recommendation 64

51. The State Security Court Act No. 19 of 2014 has been amended to restrict the jurisdiction of the Court to the five offences referred to and stipulated in article 101 of the Jordanian Constitution. No civilian may be tried in a criminal case in which not all of the judges are civilians, except for treason, espionage, terrorism, drug offences and counterfeiting. The Code of Criminal Procedure, which represents the guarantees of a fair trial, is the same as that applied by the State Security Court. Judgments of the State Security Court are not final and are subject to appeal to the Court of Cassation. Most of the Court's organs include civilian judges, in accordance with article 2 of the State Security Court Act.

Recommendation 65

52. Articles 150 and 276 of the Criminal Code on racial discrimination have been amended to increase the minimum penalty from six months to one year, in line with the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination. (Annex 42)

53. The International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination has become part of legislation and could not be violated once it was published in the *Official Gazette* on 15/6/2006.

54. Articles 6 and 101 of the Jordanian Constitution stipulate non-discrimination, while the Criminal Code No. 27 of 2017 has made the penalties for perpetrators of the offence of racial discrimination more severe by raising the minimum penalty to more than three months. Consequently, the penalty of imprisonment may not be replaced by a fine, which results in achieving general and particular deterrence of any person who contravenes the provisions of the Code with respect to racial discrimination offences of any kind and ensures fair redress for victims.

Right to freedom of opinion and expression

Recommendations 66–81

55. In its seventh objective, strengthening protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression, the Comprehensive National Human Rights Plan (2016–2025) includes reviewing the Criminal Code by abolishing custodial sentences, respecting the rights, reputation and private life of others, and combating any advocacy of national, racial or religious hatred, satisfaction with fines that are not excessive, taking into account the right of the injured party to claim civil compensation, and prohibiting in the relevant legislation the arrest of journalists for expressing their opinions orally, in writing and through other means of expression. Any action taken regarding journalists may not be for expressing an opinion, but rather for contravention of the Criminal Code, which guarantees the rights of journalists and other persons in conformity with the provisions of article 19 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. As for the laws regulating the exercise of the citizen's right to opinion and expression, the penalty provided for in the Code is commensurate with the nature of the offence. The Jordanian Constitution guarantees citizens the right to resort to the courts within the law if they experience injustice or arbitrariness in application of the law.

56. A Complaints Committee has been set up to deal with media disputes out of court under article 4 (j) of the Audiovisual Media Act, and may examine media disputes. This is a positive step regarding settlement of media disputes in the audiovisual sector between the public and media institutions. Since its formation, the Committee has examined 21 complaints and found solutions to them. Legislation on the media conforms to and complies with articles 19 and 21 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which guarantee freedom of the media and freedom of expression. The recent amendments to the laws on the press, publishing and audiovisual media comprised the best international standards of freedom of opinion and legal liability by eliminating all custodial sentences and through articles protecting and respecting the rights, reputation and private life of others, and through provisions to combat any advocacy of national, racial or religious hatred or discrimination among citizens. Other legislation in force gives journalists the full right to exercise their right to criticize the performance of public officials, in articles 192 and 198 of the Code of Criminal Procedure. In some of its judgments involving journalists and acquitting them, the Jordanian judiciary has also relied on the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

57. Article 8 of the Press and Publications Act grants journalists the right to attend public meetings, public sessions of party assemblies, public trade unions and other public institutions, and public court hearings, unless they are confidential by virtue of the laws, regulations or instructions in force. It is forbidden to interfere in any work carried out by journalists in the context of their profession, to influence them or to coerce them to disclose

their sources of information, including banning them from working, writing or publishing, without a legitimate reason.

58. The Public Meetings Act No. 7 of 2004 and the amendments thereto in Article 4 (annex 43) provide that the organizers shall give notice of a meeting or the organization of a march to the Administrative Governor at least 48 hours prior to the scheduled date, including the names of the organizers of the public meeting or march and the place and time. Before the amendment, prior approval was required of the organization of any march or meeting. The Public Security Directorate, as the law enforcement agency protecting media freedoms, provides protection to journalists and media workers in the course of their work, and ensures that there is no interference with the freedom of any journalist or media worker in the performance of their duty as long as they abide by the law. Protection measures for journalists during their coverage of sit-ins and demonstrations include the identification of places in which to cover these events, and special dress to distinguish them from participants. It should be noted that many NGOs monitor cases of aggression, if any, and the extent of the Government's response to them. We also note that the reports of these organizations are taken into account and an official response is given to them. The Public Information Authority handles any violation of freedom of opinion and expression by informing the Public Prosecution. In the event of any person being subjected to such practices, the case is taken to court.

59. During the period 2014–2018, licences were granted to 171 electronic publications, 39 radio stations, 38 satellite channels and 30 press publications.

60. Jordanian legislation regulates freedom of use of the Internet in light of widespread social networking sites and electronic blogs. It guarantees freedom of opinion and expression and restricts phenomena such as character assassination, violation of privacy and promotion of terrorism. Moreover, the Government is in the process of establishing an electronic platform to receive complaints and suggestions from citizens on the development of government services and the introduction of innovative ideas for the development of society and to contribute to the economy and the right to access information and to ensure its authenticity. Over the past four years, 2014 to July 2018, the Government has held a series of meetings with stakeholders, the Human Rights Alliance, the Ain Alliance, the Centre for the Protection and Freedom of Journalists and others, and listened to their demands and the amendments to the media laws they want.

61. Under the Right to Information Act No. 47 of 2007, all ministries and official institutions are required to disclose information, circulate it freely, and allow citizens and journalists to obtain such information within a period of 30 days. The Information Council also ensures that information is provided to those requesting it and that complaints from them are processed and settled. It should be noted that there is a plan to amend the Act, the most important amendments being to reduce the period from 30 days to 15 days, expand the membership of the Information Council to include the President of the Bar Association and the head of the journalists' union, and to give residents as well as citizens the right to information, provided there is reciprocity.

Domestic violence and social welfare

Recommendations 15, 41, 103 and 104

62. The Protection from Domestic Violence Act No. 15 of 2017 (annex 44) has been adopted. It adds several provisions on women and children and strengthens measures to protect women who are victims of or threatened with violence. The Act also provides for the protection of victims and witnesses of domestic violence. The Family Protection Department works to provide police, judicial, social, health and shelter services to women and children who are victims of domestic violence as additional steps towards tackling this scourge, and to provide the necessary protection to victims of such crimes. The Ministry of Social Development also cooperates with the Jordanian Women's Union as an association and the Jordan River Foundation, coordinating with the shelters of these institutions.

63. In 2017, training workshops were held in the Kingdom on the Protection from Domestic Violence Act in which 120 delegates from the Judicial Council, the Ministry of

Social Development, Forensic Medicine and the Family Protection Department participated. Training was given on the Act in force in accordance with international standards, application of the Act for the purposes of enabling victims, within the framework of protection rules, to access justice, protecting their rights and ensuring non-recurrence.

64. National standards on family protection have been developed to help national institutions to upgrade their services by developing standards for services provided in cases of domestic violence by service providers, in addition to institutions providing services, to be adopted at the national level. Quality and standards have also been improved under the national Family Protection Statute and an institutional stamp given to professional practice in the framework of national family protection standards. These standards have been approved by the Cabinet and circulated to all relevant institutions for compliance with the provisions contained therein.

Recommendations 105 and 106

65. The Ministry of Social Development carried out a number of morning and evening visits to centres for persons with disabilities, making 385 visits in 2017–2018. Twenty-one warnings to centres were issued; 21 centres received corrections and observations while 12 were subject to committees of enquiry.

66. The work of the independent national team to monitor and inspect social welfare centres and prepare national family protection standards was established to ensure the quality of shelter care services and to develop their system of implementation and follow-up on the ground in a way that supports the Ministry of Social Development in supervising and inspecting care centres, to develop procedures, measures and programmes to improve the quality and performance of shelter care, and to develop a system for measuring compliance and accreditation of institutions.

67. The procedures for responding to cases of domestic violence within the national framework for protecting the family from violence have been established and the necessary services provided by setting up an automated system for dealing with cases of domestic violence in order to ensure an integrated response according to the best interests of the family, provide it with the necessary integrated and high quality services as speedily as possible based on participatory approaches, and to guarantee the smooth transfer of cases and exchange of information between institutions, the preparation of periodic reports on the response procedures of institutions, and to identify gaps and weaknesses in them and propose solutions to the relevant decision-makers so that the necessary action is taken.

Recommendation 107

68. The National Family Protection Team Statute was promulgated by Decree No. 33 of 2016 to promote participatory work in the formulation of national policies in the field of family protection, to clarify and define the mechanisms, methods, roles, responsibilities and competences and the partnership between all institutions working in the field of family protection. Training courses have been held for staff working in mother and child centres affiliated to hospitals and ministry health centres, including training for trainers, and staff training courses on domestic violence, which aim to put into effect the Family Protection Act.

Recommendations 101 and 108

69. All children under six years are treated free of charge under article 27 of the Health Insurance Act No. 83 of 2004 (annex 45) in Ministry of Health centres and hospitals. Early detection services are provided to all children and minors under 18 who are resident in the Kingdom, while immunization services are provided free of charge to all children and minors in the Kingdom under national immunization programmes. (98 per cent of residents in the Kingdom.) Neonatal screening services, anaemia and thalassemia services, and treatment and school health services are provided, with periodic medical examinations, immunizations and free treatment for all students in the Kingdom. The National Patients' Rights Charter[1] has been issued to review issues related to the protection of patients' rights and to humanize the treatment process for everyone.

Social security and the right to health, education and water

Recommendation 125

70. Despite the challenges faced by the Kingdom in the water sector and the lack of resources, the Government works to ensure the water needs of all its residents without discrimination, transparently and fairly. The Kingdom is constantly attentive to the water sector by monitoring and providing water with the highest local and international health standards. The State works to provide water sources serving the daily needs of all residents of the Kingdom. The Government is also working to provide nature reserves to protect and preserve plant and animal diversity as a national environmental resource.

Recommendation 109

71. The Government is striving to develop kindergartens to provide the best care for children. By the school year 2017–2018, there were 1,611 government kindergartens. The Ministry of Education aims to reach 80 per cent coverage by the kindergarten stage by 2025. In 2017, 7,244 teachers were trained for kindergarten and the first three grades. All regions of the Kingdom also have secondary and basic schools for both genders, including Syrian students. Gross enrolment ratios are 97.3 per cent for both males and females, while net enrolment is 92.4 per cent for males and 94.1 per cent for females.

Refugees

Recommendations 117, 118 and 119

72. The Jordanian Government prepared the Jordan Response Plan for the Syrian crisis to alleviate the situation of Syrians residing in the Kingdom. It is updated annually by following best practices in burden-setting and needs assessment for both refugees and host communities in a single plan jointly developed by government ministries and institutions, various United Nations organizations, donors, local and international NGOs, representative diplomatic missions and international development agencies.

73. In its successive plans, the Jordanian Government has adopted an approach that combines humanitarian and development efforts within a single national framework that serves the needs of both Syrian refugees and host communities affected by the Syrian crisis. The successive plans have included development projects in the education, employment, energy, environment, health, justice, housing, water, transportation, social protection and decent livelihood sectors, in addition to the requirements of budgetary support to cover the increase in security costs, and government support for various commodities and materials and losses resulting from the repercussions of the crisis. For example, the amount of funding provided for the Syrian crisis response plan for 2017 was some $1.7 billion, or 65 per cent of the requirements of the 2017 plan. As for the Jordan Response Plan for the Syrian crisis 2018–2020, the financial cost of covering the needs of Syrian refugees and enhancing momentum within this plan is estimated at about $7.312 billion. However, the negative consequences and the lack of adequate funding have begun to show, not only for refugees but also for host communities, and this requires the support mechanisms of donor countries to host countries to be reconsidered, and the institutionalization and provision of full support to national plans to respond to the Syrian crisis.

74. Moreover, through the Ministry of Labour, the Jordanian Government is establishing a special section for the employment of Syrian labour. To date, 105,404 work permits have been issued to Syrians since 2016, and procedures for obtaining work permits have been facilitated. The total number of Syrian households benefiting from the assistance provided by the Jordanian Hashemite Charity Organization during the period 2014 to 2018 has been 943,812, 132,257, 52,516, 81,590 and 2,630, respectively. The assistance provided has included some areas inside Syria.

Dissemination of a human rights culture

Recommendations 17, 20, 21, 26 and 38

75. The human rights culture has been disseminated among the staff of the security and police agencies through training programmes and workshops. The Public Security Directorate has also created a special prize for public security employees called the Dealing Well with Citizens Prize, which crystallizes modern ideas and concepts based on the preventive, humanitarian, social and civilizational dimensions of policing, to develop police and security working methods in the interest of the security, stability and prosperity of Jordanian society and to improve the mental image of the police officer through respect for citizens and supporting and consolidating the good relationship between the police and citizens in accordance with human rights standards.

76. Training courses have been held on the Juveniles Act for lawyers, judges, juvenile police personnel and social workers in the Ministry of Social Development. The training included dispute settlement, trial procedures, rebukes, reprimands, alternative penalties, consolidation of the term "best interests of the child" and fair trial standards.

77. Work has been done to raise awareness of human rights through the use of experts and specialists in this field to educate school and university students in this system. An analytical study of juvenile justice will be launched in 2018 to reduce the cases of juvenile delinquency and of referral of children to the courts through the settlement of child disputes in the advanced stages of lawsuits. There will be Arabic and English versions of the study containing the target percentage of reduced delinquency. Consultations have been held with all the institutions concerned with child protection issues aimed at compliance with the development to reduce violence against children.

78. In implementation of the obligations of the Ministry of Justice in the first main objective of the first pillar of the National Human Rights Plan 2016–2025 on protection of the right to life and physical integrity by providing the best procedural and objective protection for persons subject to arrest, providing legal assistance, and disseminating and improving the legal culture in the human rights field among law enforcement officers and in society through programmes to disseminate awareness culture in the field of human rights, 40 law awareness sessions were held in several governorates for various groups, involving a total of 1,065 persons, to promote the legal aid services provided by the Ministry of Justice.

79. In 2017, in cooperation with the Justice Centre for Legal Aid, the Ministry of Justice organized a panel discussion on legal rights and guarantees for persons during pre-trial proceedings, including legal aid. There were 35 participants, who included judges, public security officers (the heads of security centres, the family protection department and the juvenile police department), lawyers and Ministry of Justice staff. The discussion covered many topics, such as legal safeguards for persons detained during pre-trial proceedings in accordance with international standards, the rights of persons detained by law enforcement agencies, the requirements of the right to an effective defence in order to guarantee the rights of persons during pre-trial proceedings, and the role of the Ministry of Justice in following up the situation of detainees held in detention centres and rehabilitation centres.

80. The Judicial Institute held 12 sessions on awareness raising and human rights education in 2016 and 2017, with 217 and 471 participants respectively. Sessions for judges were held in 2015, 2016 and 2017, involving 205 judges.

81. In 2015, the Judicial Council, in cooperation with the Judicial Institute, organized three courses to disseminate human rights education to judges, attended by 26 judges. In 2016, seven sessions were held attended by 122 judges, and in 2017, three sessions attended by 57 judges.

Recommendation 18

82. A matrix of concepts relating to the promotion of "concepts of social justice, the rule of law and respect for human rights" (annex 46) was prepared according to the age level of students and analysis of textbooks based on the matrix to determine the presence of these

concepts, and to address weaknesses by enhancing them with academic texts and educational activities and approaches. In order to impart to students the principles of respect for human rights and the rights of the child, and positive attitudes to their application in their daily lives, a series of lessons was written for national education textbooks for all classes on justice, equality, non-discrimination, public rights and freedoms, the renunciation of violence, extremism, intolerance and discrimination, and on tolerance, moderation, fairness, integrity, transparency, combating corruption, protecting the family, and women's and gender rights.

Recommendations 27, 28 and 29

83. In the framework of the Kingdom's commitment to submit contractual reports to the international committees, the following have been discussed: the Kingdom's sixth periodic report on the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women; the initial report on the International Convention on Persons with Disabilities; the Combined eighteenth to twentieth periodic report on the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination; the third periodic report on the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment; the fourth and fifth reports on the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Protocols thereto; the fifth periodic report on the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights; and the second periodic report of the Kingdom on measures taken to implement and put into effect the provisions of the Arab Charter on Human Rights. The Jordanian Government is also working to harmonize all national legislation with the international obligations ratified by the Kingdom and to enforce them in accordance with international standards on the promotion of human rights.

Recommendation 35

84. The Kingdom has achieved comprehensive national cultural development, affirming its identity as a Jordanian, Arab, Islamic and humanitarian culture, consolidating the democratic concept with all it represents in terms of commitment to human rights, respect for pluralism and diversity, and freedom of expression and opinion, as guaranteed by the Constitution.

Recommendations 56 and 57

85. Special training courses for judges on integrating international human rights standards into domestic law have been held in all regions of the country, in addition to specialized training in various human rights, family and children's rights, women's rights and persons with disabilities topics. The number of judges participating in these courses was 338. Training courses were held for all those working with vulnerable groups to care for family health, including the psychological effects of abuse on victims and how to deal with them, and training judges on the Protection from Domestic Violence Act. Judges who participated in external activities to enhance judicial cooperation, knowledge and to share experiences with other countries numbered 137.

Poverty and unemployment

Recommendations 100 and 102

86. The activities of the Programme for the Promotion of Economic and Social Productivity contribute annually to the establishment of 1,000 small and medium production projects, train 500 entrepreneurs and enrol 750 new graduates in a training programme to qualify them to enter the labour market. With regard to attracting investment to the governorates to contribute to finding solutions to the problems of unemployment and poverty, the investment map of the Kingdom has been prepared. It identifies 120 investment opportunities in 10 investment opportunity sites in each governorate. In 2014, the National Unified Registry project and outreach worker programme were implemented in cooperation with the World Bank and are expected to be completed by the end of 2018.

87. Jordan 2025: a National Strategy and Vision has been launched. It includes poverty eradication and combatting unemployment and aims to reduce the unemployment rate to no

more than 9 per cent and the poverty rate to 8 per cent by 2025. The State budget makes annual financial allocations to provincial development funds to stimulate the local economy and establish schools, health centres and small projects, in addition to allocations for implementation of the social safety net programme to guarantee the right of citizens to access food and have an adequate standard of living. Allocations are also made to support the Hashemite Fund for Development of Jordan Badia, the National Aid Fund, the Development and Employment Fund and expenditure on programmes for poor students in Jordanian universities and poor families. The Social Security Act No. 1 of 2014 also approved the linking of pensions and benefits to inflation or the average annual growth rate of the average wage.

VI. Partial implementation of recommendations

Recommendations 9, 97 and 124

88. Work is under way to amend three draft laws. Temporary Employment Act No. 26 of 2010 is being amended to protect workers' rights and provide a safe working environment by amending the regulations and instructions on the domestic workers sector, including introduction of the definition of gender discrimination in wages for work of equal value, and increasing the penalty if such discrimination by the employer is proven, and the definition of flexible work. Article 72 is being amended to provide nurseries for workers' children, and article 12 to grant paternity leave. A technical committee of the National Council for Family Affairs is currently working to update the National Framework to Combat Child Labour of 2011 in partnership with the Ministry of Social Development, the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Labour, the Ministry of Interior and ILO. It will also consult with civil society institutions and relevant international institutions, and issue a handbook of practical procedures to be approved by the Prime Minister. The Prevention of Trafficking in Persons Act in force: the Statute on Shelters for Victims and those Harmed by Human Trafficking Offences No. 30 of 2012 is being amended, and guidelines drafted on shelters for victims of human trafficking offences in order to comply with the amended Trafficking in Persons Act after the emergence of the final amended version. The National Strategy for the Prevention of Human Trafficking includes four main themes: prevention, protection, prosecution, and exchange by local, regional and international partnerships. The Personal Status Act and preparation of the first draft of the Rights of the Child Act.

Recommendation 33

89. The Government has been working on an executive plan to raise awareness of the principle of citizenship, the rule of law and equality,[14] which is aimed at contributing to the creation of a social culture based on the principle of citizenship, the rule of law and equality.

VII. Challenges the Kingdom faces in making progress on human rights issues

Political and security challenges

90. The political and security challenges include the following:

- **The failure to date to reach a solution to the Palestinian question contributes to increasing the economic, social and security impacts on the Kingdom. The international community must therefore continue its efforts to resolve the Palestinian question.**
- **The ongoing Syrian crisis and the hosting of a large number of Syrians in the Kingdom. The international community should therefore continue to work to find a political solution to the Syrian crisis.**
- **The terrorist threats targeting Jordan because of its geographical location, its stable and moderate political positions and developments in the region (the instability of some neighbouring countries, the spread of violence and weapons,**

the spread of radical ideologies and the phenomenon of religious extremism and sectarian divide).

Economic and social challenges

91. The economic and social challenges include the following:

- **Significant additional pressures resulting from hosting Syrians affect all aspects of life and infrastructure, especially the water, sanitation, health, education and municipal services sectors; the emergence of social challenges; in addition to the burdens on the public purse, the challenges in the labour market resulting from the Syrian presence, the spread of unemployment and poverty because of the lack of economic resources; the high cost of hosting Syrians in Jordanian territory and failure to act adequately on the principle of burden-sharing and solidarity in the required form; the closure of land borders with Jordan's trading partners has implications for economic sectors such as low exports, rising shipping costs and, consequently, the inability of those sectors to continue to provide jobs, among others. All this threatens the national and developmental gains achieved in recent decades.**
- **Lack of water resources. Jordan ranks as the second poorest country in the world in terms of water, in addition to the challenges it faces in terms of climate change and global environmental conditions, which include desertification.**
- **The need to provide the necessary resources and expertise to implement the Sustainable Development Goals and their human rights-related indicators, and to spread the human rights culture.**
- **The need to provide technical and material support to translate the new provisions of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act No. 20 of 2017 into practical facts and practices felt by all concerned.**

VIII. Jordan's view of the human rights situation

92. Despite the challenges, the Jordanian State is working to include the results of the UPR recommendations within the framework of a national implementation plan to improve the human rights situation in Jordan and bring it into line with the themes of the Comprehensive National Human Rights Plan 2016–2025 with the participation of all sections of Jordanian society.

IX. Conclusion

93. The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan affirms its earnest and sincere endeavour to consolidate the human rights system, its continued commitment to respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms within the framework of the Constitution, international commitments and governmental programmes and policies, and to building on what has been achieved in this area, and submits its third periodic review report on the human rights situation. The Kingdom also affirms that, despite the political and security conditions surrounding this region, the process of political reform is current, ongoing and gradually taking place through the adoption of a roadmap for reform and development in the presence of an effective political will that believes in, sponsors and consolidates reform.

Notes

[1] استقبل مكتب المنسق الحكومي تقارير أصحاب المصلحة من (المركز الوطني لحقوق الإنسان، تحالف عين الأردن، تحالف إنسان، تحالف إرادة شباب، التحالف المدني لمناهضة التعذيب).

[2] وحدة الحكومة الشفافة / وزارة التخطيط والتعاون الدولي تم انشائها بتاريخ 2018/5/15.

[3] مكتب الشكاوى وحقوق الإنسان / المديرية العامة لقوات الدرك تم تأسيسه خلال العام 2018 وهو مرتبط مباشرة بمعطوفة المدير العام لقوات الدرك

[4] مركز تدريب متخصص لحقوق الإنسان/ مديرية الأمن العام استحدث عام 2017 ويتبع لمكتب الشفافية وحقوق الإنسان.

[7] هيئة النزاهة ومكافحة الفساد تأسست عام 2016 وتم دمج كل من ديوان المظالم، وهيئة النزاهة، ومكافحة الفساد تحت مسمى واحد بموجب اقرار قانون النزاهة ومكافحة الفساد رقم (13) لسنة 2016.

[8] وحدة مكافحة الجرائم الالكترونية / مديرية الأمن العام باشرت عملها في عام 2015 وهي تتبع إدارة البحث الجنائي

[9] المنسق الحكومي لحقوق الانسان / رئاسة الوزراء تم استحداث منصب المنسق الحكومي لحقوق الانسان في رئاسة الوزراء بقرار من رئيس الوزراء بتاريخ 3/6 العام 2014، والمكون من حوالي (110) ضباط ارتباط من كوادر الوزارات والمؤسسات والدوائر الحكومية والأمنية والاكاديمية.

[9] وحدة مكافحة الاتجار بالبشر / مديرية الأمن العام باشرت عملها في عام 2013.

[9] تم انشاء قسم تفتيش لدى وحدة مكافحة الاتجار بالبشر في وزارة العمل عام 2014.

[10] تم تضمين مطالبات المجتمع المدني وتحالفاته في التقرير الوطني و المتعلق بالغاء المادة 308 من قانون العقوبات.

[11] يجري العمل حاليا على تعديل القانون رقم 9 لسنة 2009 لمواكبة المعايير الدولية لضمان حماية ضحايا الاتجار بالبشر وتم رفعه للجهات ذات العلاقة للسير في الاجراءات التشريعية.

[12] تم تضمين افادة التحالف المدني لمناهضة التعذيب في التقرير الوطني.

[13] يضم الميثاق الوطني الاردني لحقوق المريض الرعاية الصحية لكافة الاشخاص من ذوي اضطراب التوحد وذوي الاعاقات و المرضى النفسيين وكبار السن و اللاجئين و المهاجرين و المعرضين للخطر ، كما ان العناية من اصدار الميثاق ليس وضع حقوق جديدة للمرضى وانما تطبيق حقوق المريض.

[14] كما تعزز الخطة مفاهيم المواطنة وسيادة القانون والمساواة بالاضافة الى تنمية المهارات والمعارف الأساسية بمضامين مبدأ المواطنة وسيادة القانون وشملت محور تنفيذية منها برنامج تدريبي موجه لمعلمي المدارس ومؤسسات المجتمع المدني، وفعاليات وانشطة ثقافية نوعية تنظمها المؤسسات الحكومية بالتعاون مع المجتمع المدني بالإضافة الى نشر كتب ودعم أعمال فنية تساهم في نشر مفاهيم المواطنة وسيادة القانون ومحور حول عدالة توزيع مكتسبات التنمية.